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Agenda item 35
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 23 July 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I transmit to you herewith a statistical summary of Israeli violations of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) committed in June 2014 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 35, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Caroline **Ziade**
Chargé d'affaires a. i.

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Annex to the identical letters dated 23 July 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Land violations

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
1 June 2014	1820	From inside occupied Palestinian territory opposite the town of Yarun at point B43 (1), the Israeli enemy crossed the technical fence without violating the Blue Line, and proceeded to clear brush. Some enemy personnel cocked their weapons and pointed them towards Lebanese Army personnel. At 1926 hours, they departed in the direction of occupied territory.
2 June 2014	1400 1600	The Israeli enemy aimed the cannon of a Merkava tank positioned near the Salhah position in the direction of Lebanese territory.
3 June 2014	2235	From its position at the Zar'it barracks, the Israeli enemy directed a searchlight towards the Lebanese Army Tarikha and Jabal Balat positions for a period of two minutes.
5 June 2014	2115 2118	From its position at Ra's al-Naqurah, the Israeli enemy directed a searchlight towards a Lebanese Army position for three successive periods: the first was for one minute, the second was for 45 seconds and the third was for 25 seconds.
	2245 2248	From its naval position at Ra's al-Naqurah, the Israeli enemy directed a searchlight towards a Lebanese Army position and a Lebanese Public Security post for three successive periods: the first was for 20 seconds, the second was for 30 seconds and the third was for one minute.
7 June 2014	0930	Approximately 15 Israeli enemy armed forces infantry personnel came out of the Ruwaysat al-Alam post on the outskirts of the town of Kafr Shuba and took up combat positions along the post's berms, towards Lebanese territory. At 1015 hours, they returned to inside the aforementioned post.
8 June 2014	1000 1115	An Israeli enemy patrol consisting of a Hummer vehicle, two Defender vehicles and a Toyota pickup stopped at the technical fence opposite the Udaysah-Kafr Killa Road. Ten personnel disembarked and performed work on the aforementioned technical fence while a member of the hostile patrol pointed his weapon at Lebanese Army personnel located on the opposite side.
11 June 2014	0845	From inside occupied Palestinian territory, between points BP34 and B77 opposite the town of Markaba, the Israeli enemy began clearing a dirt road. At 0930 hours, the arm of one of their excavators extended across the technical fence and engaged in clearing activities two metres into the area between the technical fence and the Blue Line.
12 June 2014	0830	Opposite the town of Markaba, between points B73 and B76, two excavators, two trucks and a steamroller appeared belonging to the Israeli enemy engaged in clearing activities between the technical fence and the Blue Line. The arm of one of the excavators extended across the technical fence. At 1810 hours, the Israeli enemy finished its work.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
	2114	From its position at the Zar'it barracks, the Israeli enemy directed a searchlight towards the Lebanese Army Jabal Balat and Tarikha positions for a period of three minutes.
15 June 2004	0930	From inside occupied Palestinian territory, between points B75 and B76 (1) opposite the towns of Markaba and Hula, the Israeli enemy began brush-clearing activities along the technical fence. At 1030 hours, the arm of one of its excavators extended across the technical fence and engaged in the clearing activities beyond it, without violating the Blue Line.
	1030	Inside Shab'a Farms, near its position at Ruwaysat al-Alam, the Israeli enemy detained approximately 110 goats belonging to an individual named Isma'il Nasir.
	1430	On the outskirts of the town of Shab'a, an Israeli enemy patrol consisting of nine personnel crossed 200 metres over the line of withdrawal and detained approximately 500 goats belonging to Muhammad Hashim. They returned the herd at 1530 hours.
17 June 2014	0530 0800	The sound of explosions was heard inside the occupied Shab'a Farms.
18 June 2014	0900	From inside occupied Palestinian territory, four bulldozers and two excavators arrived from the Sheikh Abbad position and proceeded to clean up and clear brush from the road along the technical fence between points BP33 and B68. The arm of one of the excavators extended across the aforementioned fence without violating the Blue Line. The work was completed at 1620 hours and the vehicles headed towards occupied territory.
19 June 2014	0600	Inside occupied Palestinian territory, an Israeli enemy patrol consisting of a personnel carrier and two Command Cars stopped opposite the Wazzani resort at point OP8. Twenty personnel disembarked, opened the gate, crossed the technical fence and walked along the bank of the Wazzani River towards the Wazzani pump that supplies the town of Ghajar, without violating the Blue Line. At 0915 hours, the personnel left from the location of the aforementioned pump and headed towards occupied territory.
	0810	From inside occupied Palestinian territory, the Israeli enemy used a ditch-digging bulldozer to clear brush between the technical fence and the Blue Line between points B17 and B20, opposite the town of Duhayrah. The work was completed at 1610 hours.
	0815	From inside occupied Palestinian territory, between points B66 and B69 (1) opposite the town of Mays al-Jabal, the Israeli enemy used two tracked bulldozers, three excavators, one equipped with jackhammer, and two steamrollers to inspect the dirt road adjacent to the technical fence. The arm of the jackhammer-equipped vehicle extended across the technical fence several times between points B68 (2) and B69. The arm of that same vehicle crossed technical fence opposite point B69 between 0900 and 0905 hours. The work was completed at 1650 hours without violating the Blue Line.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
	1500	In the Saddanah area on the outskirts of the town of Habbariyah, near observation point OP4 manned by the Indian contingent of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, an Israeli enemy patrol crossed 100 metres over the line of withdrawal and abducted the shepherd Muhammad Da'bus (Syrian). The patrol released him at 1700 hours.
	1500	In the Zarqa' area on the outskirts of the town of Shab'a, Israeli enemy forces fired on two shepherds, Muhammad Hashim and the Syrian Muhammad Hammadah, and attempted to abduct them while they were herding their flocks inside Lebanese territory.
22 June 2014	2030 2130	The Israeli enemy fired seven flares over the Ruwaysat al-'Alam and Birkat al-Naqqar posts in the occupied Shab'a Farms.
23 June 2014	0800	From inside occupied Palestinian territory, the Israeli enemy engaged in brush-clearing activities between the technical fence and the Blue Line from point B20-2 to point BP8-1, opposite the town of Yarun. The arm of an excavator extended across the technical fence without violating the Blue Line. The work was completed at 1630 hours.
25 June 2014	0305	The Israeli enemy fired two flares that landed in the outskirts of the town of Kafr Killa, near point B92 inside Lebanese territory at a distance of some 50 to 100 metres from the Blue Line.
	1950	An Israeli enemy patrol consisting of one Hummer Jeep stopped inside occupied Palestinian territory near the South Duhayrah position. Three personnel disembarked and directed curses and vulgar language over loudspeakers at Lebanese Army personnel at the Duhayrah position.
26 June 2014	0655 0740	From inside occupied Palestinian territory opposite the town of Mays al-Jabal at point B65, an Israeli enemy patrol consisting of 12 personnel accompanied by a dog crossed the technical fence without violating the Blue Line and searched the area under the protection of two Merkava tanks from the Dahr al-'Asi post.
	0730	From inside occupied Palestinian territory, the Israeli enemy used construction machinery to clear brush between the Blue Line and the technical fence from point B22 to point B23, opposite the town of Basatin. The work ended at 1630 hours.
28 June 2014	1320	On the outskirts of the town of Shab'a, near the Birkat al-Naqqar location, an Israeli enemy soldier threw a stun hand grenade while the shepherd Mahir Hamdan was located between the technical fence and the line of withdrawal. The shepherd was not injured.
30 June 2014	2247	Inside occupied Palestinian territory, hostile personnel in a Humvee vehicle at the Zar'it barracks directed a searchlight for one minute towards Lebanese territory, along the length of the road stretching from Ramiya to Tarbikha.

Air violations

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
3 June 2014	0910	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over Tyre and Nabatiyah before leaving at 1815 hours over Rumaysh.
	0955	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Rumaysh. It circled over areas of the western Bekaa before leaving at 1040 hours over Kafr Killa.
	1005	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the sea off Shikka. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1050 hours over Aytarun.
	1015	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. It circled over areas of the western Bekaa before leaving at 1100 hours over Kafr Killa.
4 June 2014	1035	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. It circled over Tyre, Nabatiyah, Marj Uyun and Bint Jubayl before leaving at 1930 hours over Rumaysh.
7 June 2014	0525	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. It circled over Riyaq and Baalbek before leaving at 1415 hours over Naqurah.
8 June 2014	0645	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. It circled over the South before leaving at 1545 hours over Naqurah.
9 June 2014	1040	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the sea off Shikka. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1105 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
	1555	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. It circled over Rivaq, Baalbek and Beirut and its suburbs before leaving at 2315 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
10 June 2014	0535	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Rumaysh. It circled over Riyaq and Baalbek before leaving at 1205 hours over Kafr Killa.
	0610	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over Tyre before leaving at 1000 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
	0805	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over Sidon, Tyre, Nabatiyah, Marj Uyun and Bint Jubayl before leaving at 1600 hours over Rumaysh.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
	0920	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1110 hours over the sea off Naqurah.
13 June 2014	0615	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. It circled over Riyaq and Baalbek before leaving at 1155 hours over Kafr Killa.
15 June 2014	1005	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. It circled over Riyaq and Baalbek, before leaving at 1500 hours over Rumaysh.
16 June 2014	0935	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over Beirut and its suburbs, Batrun and Kurah before leaving at 1640 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
	0940	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1120 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
17 June 2014	2300	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over Riyaq and Baalbek before leaving at 2315 hours over Naqurah.
18 June 2014	1120	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the occupied Shab'a Farms. It circled over Hasbayya, Rashayya, Marj Uyun, Bint Jubayl, Rumaysh and Iqlim al-Kharub before leaving at 1600 hours over Rumaysh.
19 June 2014	1130	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. It circled over Riyaq, Zahlah and the western Bekaa before leaving at 1600 hours over Rumaysh.
20 June 2014	1525	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace. It circled over Shab'a before leaving at 1540 hours.
22 June 2014	2355	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. They circled over the South before leaving on 23 June 2014 at 0130 hours over Naqurah.
24 June 2014	1110	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. It circled over Hasbayya, Jazzin, Nabatiyah, Marj Uyun, Tyre and Bint Jubayl before leaving at 1600 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
25 June 2014	1020	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. They circled over the South before leaving at 1120 hours over Alma al-Sha'b.
	1035	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over Beirut and its suburbs, Batrun and Jubayl before leaving at 1600 hours over Naqurah.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
	1850	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over Beirut and its suburbs before leaving at 2245 hours over Rumaysh.
26 June 2014	1015	Four Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the sea off Naqurah. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1125 hours over the sea off Naqurah.
	1025	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. It circled over Riyaq, Baalbek and Hirmil before leaving at 1550 hours over Kafr Killa.
27 June 2014	1035	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Kafr Killa. It circled over the South before leaving at 1445 hours over Rumaysh.
29 June 2014	1010	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha'b. It circled over Beirut and its suburbs, the Shuf, Jubayl and Tripoli before leaving at 1650 hours over Kafr Killa.
	1635	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over Beirut and its suburbs, Jazzin, Nabatiyah and Marj Uyun before leaving at 2250 hours over Aytarun.
30 June 2014	0900	An Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. It circled over Beirut and its suburbs before leaving at 1330 hours over Kafr Killa.
	1115	Two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Naqurah. They circled over all regions of Lebanon before leaving at 1235 hours over the sea off Naqurah.

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General Assembly
Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 70 (a)
Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 29 July 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you the position of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic regarding the fifth report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014):

1. In keeping with its firm position that the humanitarian situation and its implications are the Syrian State's top priority, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has marshalled all its resources to meet the pressing need to provide shelter, food and medicine to all civilians who have been affected by the crimes committed by armed terrorist groups. Since 2011, it has worked to meet the needs of its citizens, in keeping with its constitutional responsibility towards them, and has cooperated with the United Nations and its agencies in the provision and delivery of humanitarian assistance to persons affected by the crisis.

2. In that regard, it reaffirms its readiness to continue to cooperate with the United Nations to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance to all affected Syrian citizens, without discrimination. It is also abides by the letter and spirit of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014) and 2165 (2014), in accordance with the sequence of steps specified in Security Council resolution 2165 (2014) and the understanding reached in the Security Council in that regard and on the basis of respect for the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of international law, the guiding principles for humanitarian emergency assistance annexed to General Assembly resolution 46/182 and, above all, the principle of respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Syria that was reaffirmed in Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014) and 2165 (2014).

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3. The guiding principles for humanitarian emergency assistance stress that the affected country should consent to the provision of humanitarian assistance within its territory. Those principles also stress the primary role of the affected country in the organization, coordination and delivery of humanitarian assistance. We therefore expect the United Nations and its agencies, in keeping with their commitment to the aforementioned principles, which include neutrality and impartiality, to implement the Security Council resolutions transparently, without politicization and on the basis that the sole purpose of United Nations assistance operations is to respond to humanitarian needs, instead of attempting to realize particular political agendas and taking part in the violation of Syria's sovereignty and the undermining of the Syrian State, as has been evident in the behaviour of certain senior United Nations officials responsible for humanitarian affairs. In order to achieve that goal, assistance must be delivered and distributed directly to all Syrians in all regions in a fair and non-selective manner. The Syrian Government should be provided, in advance, with clear, transparent and detailed plans that include information on the number of civilian beneficiaries and how assistance will be delivered to areas in which armed terrorist groups, some of which are included in the United Nations lists of terrorist entities, are active. Those plans should also contain the names of implementing partners. Non-governmental organizations should conduct their activities in complete transparency and be forthright regarding the amount of assistance they are providing and their sources of funding. In addition, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic stresses the need to cooperate with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, the primary partner for United Nations relief activities in Syrian territory, in the distribution of assistance brought in across the border and to steer clear of dealing with terrorist organizations that are on United Nations counter-terrorism lists or organizations affiliated with them.

4. Ensuring full implementation of the provisions of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014) and 2165 (2014) requires continued cooperation and coordination between the United Nations, represented by its country team in Syria, and the Syrian Government. Over the past few years, such cooperation has resulted in the delivery of assistance to millions of Syrians throughout the country, including hot spots, as has been confirmed by reports issued by United Nations bodies and agencies operating in Syria. The office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Syria is responsible for overseeing all United Nations activities in the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic therefore stresses that the Resident Coordinator must supervise all relief operations, including those involving the importation of assistance across the borders, in coordination with the Syrian Government. Such a course of action would ensure the implementation of the letter and spirit of Security Council resolution 2165 (2014) and the application of the fundamental principles governing the work of the United Nations in crises.

5. The Syrian Government reiterates its keen concern for the security and safety of aid workers affiliated with the United Nations and its agencies, something that was stressed in Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014) and 2165 (2014). In that same vein, Syria emphasizes that those workers must respect national laws regarding the presence of foreigners in Syrian territory. Accordingly, in order for any officials of international agencies or their implementing partners to enter the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic, they must obtain a valid entry visa from a Syrian embassy or consulate. Otherwise, their presence in Syrian territory shall be considered illegal and subject to the laws in force. It would also constitute a

violation of Syria's sovereignty and, by extension, Security Council resolution 2165 (2014). The Syrian Government stresses that it must be informed sufficiently in advance of the importation of humanitarian assistance into its territory so that it may take the necessary measures to ensure the delivery of such assistance and also to ensure the security and safety of humanitarian agency personnel.

6. The Syrian Government finds it strange that the report addresses the situation in the area of separation of forces, inasmuch as that is a transgression of the mandate established by the relevant Security Council resolutions. The situation in the area of separation is covered by the reports of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force.

7. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates has previously conveyed to the Resident Coordinator for United Nations activities in Syria the displeasure of the Syrian Government over the haphazard manner in which senior United Nations officials have arbitrarily included inaccurate and undocumented figures on humanitarian needs in Syria in their statements, reports and assessments. The Government furthermore objects to the reliance by the drafters of the report on information taken from unsubstantiated testimony and reports issued by politicized parties, in particular the reports of the special international commission of inquiry for Syria, which are characterized by politicization and lack of objectivity.

8. Although it continues to approve requests made by United Nations organizations and international organizations to import humanitarian assistance via the official border crossings with Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Turkey, the Syrian Government finds it deplorable that the Secretary-General's report overlooks the Turkish Government's refusal to allow the World Food Programme and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to import humanitarian assistance via the Nusaybin crossing on the border with Turkey. This refusal necessitated the shipment of those supplies by aircraft from Damascus airport to Qamishli airport.

9. Whenever possible, the Syrian Government has facilitated the efforts of the United Nations to reach many hard-to-reach areas and hotspots in Rif Dimashq, the eastern and western parts of the Aleppo countryside, Idlib and the Dar'a countryside. In addition, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent delivered humanitarian assistance to those areas in the period from 23 June 2014 to 22 July 2014:

- With the approval of the Syrian Government, the United Nations, in cooperation with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, delivered humanitarian assistance to Mu'addamiyah, Rif Dimashq governorate, in the period from 14 to 21 July 2014. This assistance consisted of food as well as non-food and medical supplies and vaccines for polio, measles and other diseases. In total, some 6,000 food parcels and 800 sacks of flour were provided, sufficient for approximately 30,000 persons. The Syrian Arab Red Crescent also brought two mobile clinics into Mu'addamiyah in the above-mentioned period. Medical teams treated 1,081 persons, 447 of whom were children. The teams also brought in 1,000 units of polio and measles vaccine, administered vaccines for other diseases and provided the area clinic with 250 ampoules of insulin to treat cases of diabetes. The Syrian Arab Red Crescent, in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO), also delivered medical assistance to Mu'addamiyah on 28 July 2014. In addition, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, acting on the recommendation of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in

Syria, is in the process of establishing a medical unit and a branch office in Mu'addamiyah.

- The delivery by the United Nations of humanitarian assistance to Mu'addamiyah and what the Organization witnessed inside the city confirms that it is not under siege, contrary to the claims made in the Secretariat's reports.
- On 10 July 2014, the Syrian Government reiterated for the third time its official request to the United Nations to deliver humanitarian assistance to Adra al-Ummaliyah and Adra al-Balad, which have been besieged since the beginning of 2013. To date, the United Nations has not responded to those requests.
- The Syrian Arab Red Crescent, in cooperation with the United Nations, also delivered humanitarian assistance to the following areas:
    - Dar'a governorate: 4,000 food and medical parcels were delivered to Yadudah, Tall Shihab and Zayzun
    - Idlib governorate: 18,200 food parcels were delivered to Ariha, Abu al-Duhur, Ma'arrat al-Nu'man, Harim, Quraqanya, Kafr Takharim, Arminaz, Darkush, Sarmin, Kafraya, Ma'arrah and Fu'ah
    - Hama governorate: 2,874 food parcels were delivered to Masyaf, Sahan, Salamiyah, Suqaylibiyah and Hama city
    - Aleppo city: 3,350 food parcels were distributed to eastern and western parts of the city
    - Rif Dimashq governorate: 21,919 food parcels were distributed to Yabrud, Nabk, Tall, Kiswah and Qarah
- On 18 July 2014, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent delivered humanitarian assistance consisting of 500 food parcels sufficient for 2,500 persons to Qadam and Asbaynah in Rif Dimashq. It also brought in two mobile surgical units.
- The Syrian Arab Red Crescent, in cooperation with WHO, delivered medical and surgical supplies to four hospitals in the eastern and western parts of Aleppo city. The requests of ICRC to deliver medical supplies to Bab and Manbij hospitals in the Aleppo countryside were also approved.
- On 22 July 2014, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) distributed 495 food parcels in Yarmouk camp. Including those parcels, the total number of parcels distributed to camp residents since 30 January 2014 stands at 39,022 food parcels and 3,776 health-care parcels. An ill person was also taken out of the camp, bringing the total number of ill persons evacuated from the camp to 4,451. The competent authorities and UNRWA also provided the Palestine Red Crescent with tuberculosis, measles, tetanus, quadruple, quintuple, paediatric hepatitis and polio vaccines, vaccination syringes and tuberculosis vaccination syringes. In addition, children's medications and medicines to treat heart disease, diabetes and typhoid, along with vitamins and nutritional supplements, were provided to the residents of Yarmouk, in order to alleviate the suffering they are enduring as a result of the blockade imposed on them by armed terrorist gangs.

10. The Syrian Government will continue to cooperate with the United Nations to address any problems in the procedures that regulate the movement of humanitarian convoys as long as international agencies continue to abide by the fundamental principles governing humanitarian work, the most important of which is respect for national sovereignty, in order to facilitate the movement of relief supplies and ensure that they reach their destination as soon as possible. We reiterate that the success of such work depends on cooperation and transparency on the part of the United Nations. The Organization should not be content with constantly criticizing the Government's actions.

11. Contrary to the claims made in the Secretary-General's report that the Syrian armed forces are indiscriminately targeting civilians, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic continues to fulfil its constitutional duty to use every means to protect its citizens from the terrorist crimes that have been committed against them. Syrians have been the victims of terrorist bombings and daily indiscriminate rocket attacks against their homes, workplaces, educational and medical institutions, and religious and historical sites in all governorates. At the same time, the Government continues to strive earnestly to reach a political solution and bring about national reconciliation. This is Syria's national strategy. The success achieved in the old city of Homs is but one example of the fruits of that strategy and was preceded by successes in Rif Dimashq, Aleppo, Hama and other governorates. The Syrian Government continues to make serious efforts to restore security and stability to areas that have been affected by terrorism, with a view to finding a political solution and saving the lives of civilians and returning them to their homes.

12. We wish to reiterate that, in order to resolve humanitarian crisis that has developed in many parts of Syria, it is essential to address the roots of the problem and the factors that are exacerbating it. First and foremost, that means countering and eradicating terrorism and rescinding unilateral, punitive economic measures. It is puzzling that United Nations reports do not reflect the fact that terrorism has given rise to humanitarian needs and ignore the negative effects that unilateral coercive measures have had on the livelihoods of Syrian civilians; those are measures that have exacerbated human suffering. Indeed, the reports ignore this link despite the fact that it is acknowledged in Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014) and 2165 (2014). The lack of attention to this aspect on the part of the Secretariat and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs raises doubts as to the credibility of these reports and those responsible for them. It also impedes, both directly and indirectly, the vital role that the United Nations is expected to play in countering terrorism and those who support, fund and arm terrorists.

(*Signed*) Haydar Ali **Ahmad**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.